

has been consolidated, the empty treasury
has been filled,
the semi-independence of the provincial
governors has
been broken, Persia has been re-created as a
coherent
Empire, certain roads have been made,
posts and tele-
graphs have been inaugurated, an Imperial
Bank with
branches in some of the principal towns has
been formed,
foreign capital has been encouraged or at
least permitted
to enter the country, a concession for the
free navigation
of the Karun has been granted, and the
Na&vri Company,
the most hopeful token of native progress, has
received
Imperial favour.

But under all this lies the inherent
rottenness of
Persian administration, an abyss of official
corruption and
infamy without a bottom or a shore, a
corruption of
heredity and tradition, unchecked by public
opinion or
the teachings of even an' elementary
education in morals
and the rudiments of justice. There are few
men pure
enough to judge their fellows or to lift clean
hands to
Heaven, and power and place are valued
for their
opportunities for plunder.

In no part of Persia did I hear any
complaint of the
tribute levied by the Shah. It is regarded as
legitimate.

But in most districts allegations concerning
the rapacity
and exactions of the provincial governors
were universal,
and there is unfortunately great reason for
believing
them well founded. The farming of the taxes,
the prac-
tical purchase of appointments, the gigantic
system of
bribery by which all offices are obtained, the
absence of

administrative training and supervision, the traditions of office, and the absolute dependence of every official on the pleasure of a Sovereign surrounded by the intrigues of an Oriental court, are conditions sufficient to destroy the virtue of all but the best of men.

Where all appointments are obtained practically by bribery, and no one has any security in the tenure of an

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